

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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PCT

**NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
REPORT**

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
day/month/year

- 3 AUG 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
12208720/JCC

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International Application No.

PCT/AU2003/000479

International Filing Date

22 April 2003

Priority Date

23 April 2002

Applicant

CERAMIC FUEL CELLS LIMITED et al

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translations to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer JOHN DEUIS Telephone No. (02) 6283 2146
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 12208720/JCC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000479	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 22 April 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 23 April 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 H01M 8/00, 8/04, C01B 3/22, 3/24, 2/26		
Applicant CERAMIC FUEL CELLS LIMITED et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report
II	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21 October 2003	Date of completion of the report 30 July 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer JOHN DEUIS Telephone No. (02) 6283 2146

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 4, 6-7, 10, 15	YES
	Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 11-14	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 11-14	YES
	Claims 4, 6-7, 10, 15	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-15	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claims are not novel and lack an inventive step regarding the following citations:

D1: DE 10019548 A (Jeschke G) 31 October 2001

D2: US 5795666 A (Johnsen) 18 August 1998

D3: Derwent Abstract Accession No. 2001-451664/48, Class E36, H06, L03, (H08)
WO 2001/044412 A (Idemitsu Kosan Co. Ltd.), 21 June 2001

D4: WO 2000/039873 A (INTERNATIONAL FUEL CELLS, LLC) 6 July 2000

D1-D2 claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 11-13

These documents disclose processes for the production of hydrogen for the use in fuel cells wherein, the starting material are either chosen from a biomass or plant oil, that are essentially free of organic sulfur-containing compounds.

D3 claims 1-2, 5, 9, 11-13

This document discloses a fuel oil for fuel cells wherein, a fuel oil having a sulfur content of ≤ 0.5 weight ppm is used.

D4 claims 1-3, 5, 9, 11-14

This document discloses a fuel gas processing system used to power a fuel cell power plant. A source of sulfur free fuel is used wherein, the fuel containing initial high levels of organic sulfur, is firstly passed through a nickel reactant desulfurizer before being passed into the power plant.